MEDICARE AND YOU

Understanding Medicare's New Prescription Drug Coverage

"AARP is encouraged that enrollment in the Medicare prescription drug program remains strong. Today, Medicare announced that an additional 1.9 million beneficiaries signed up for a Medicare prescription drug plan over the past five weeks. With the Medicare drug program, more older Americans than ever before have access to affordable prescription drugs."

- Statement by AARP CEO Bill Novelli on Medicare Drug Benefit Enrollment Numbers, March 23, 2006







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MEDICARE AND YOU

Charles Taylor—Making Sure You Know the Facts

On January 1, 2006, seniors began signing up for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. Millions of seniors are now saving money on their prescription drugs and living healthier lives.

How can I sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan?

- 1) **Call 1-800-MEDICARE**. When calling, have your Medicare Card, a list of drugs that you use and the name of your pharmacy at hand to get immediate help in choosing your plan.
- 2) If you use the Internet, or have a friend or family member that can help you, you can also get personalized help at **www.medicare.gov**.

All of the different plans seem overwhelming to me. Why is choice and competition good for me?

While having to choose from many different plans may seem daunting, by working with your doctor, a family member, the local County Office for the Aging, or a Social Security Administrator you can choose a prescription drug plan that is right for you. Thanks to competition, the average premium you may pay has been lowered from \$37 to \$25.

I'm a senior with limited income and resources. Are there special benefits for me?

If you have a limited income, you may be able to get help paying for your monthly premiums, deductibles and co-payments under this prescription drug program. If your annual income is below \$14,355 for an individual (\$19,245 for a married couple living together), you may not have to pay monthly premiums or deductibles, and you could pay as little as \$2 for your co-payments.

For more information about getting help with your prescription drug costs, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

